

PATENT APPLICATION S.N. 10/619,397

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:

Ramey et al.

Serial No.:

10/619,397

Examiner:

John J. Kreck

Group Art Unit:

3673

Confirmation

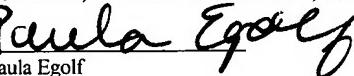
7673

No.

Title: SODIUM CARBONATE AND SODIUM BICARBONATE PRODUCTION
FROM NAHCOLITIC OIL SHALE

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service, mailing label EV 199953590US under 37 CFR 1.10 on July 22, 2004, addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

By: 
Paula Egolf

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004 (the "Office Action").

Applicants appreciate that no substantive rejection of the claims has been made other than a rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,609,761, the parent of the present application.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the asserted premise that the claims pending in this application are not patentably distinct from those in the '761 patent. Accordingly, this Response should not be construed as an admission of that premise.

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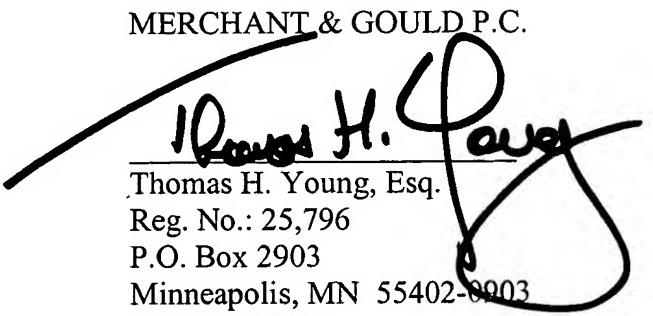
Nevertheless, in compliance with the Office Action, applicants hereby submit a terminal disclaimer under 37 CFR 1.321(c). As indicated in the Office Action, this terminal disclaimer should overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection.

Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper other than the fee due for an extension of time and the fee due in connection with this Terminal Disclaimer, both of which are submitted herewith. However, if applicant is somehow in error, you are hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 40217.1USC1.

Respectfully submitted this 22nd day of July 2004.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.



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